



# Career Education

In recognition of the prime importance of work in our society and the role that mathematics plays in the lives of all individuals, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics supports the position that Career Education should be a major goal of all who teach and learn mathematics.

For the purposes of this statement, Career Education is defined as the composite of all learning experiences, classroom and nonclassroom, that promote these goals:

1. The learner's understanding of the values of the work ethic and how these values contribute to his or her personal development
2. The learner's awareness of the nature of various careers and of how mathematics is used in those careers
3. The learner's attainment of mathematical concepts and skills, with the ability to apply that knowledge to the solution of career-related problems

Career Education may be achieved by increasing the emphasis placed by schools on career awareness, exploration, decision-making, and planning. Teachers, parents, and guidance counselors should encourage each student to pursue the study of mathematics to the highest level of his or her ability, making it clear that the value of the knowledge and skills so gained cannot always be judged on the basis of immediate need or use.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, recognizing that the incorporation of concepts and approaches to Career Education into the school curriculum requires that teachers develop special knowledge and skills, recommends that Career Education be given special and immediate attention in the training of mathematics teachers at both preservice and in-service levels.

(September 1977)



**National Council of  
Teachers of Mathematics**

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has for its object the advancement of mathematics teaching in elementary schools, junior and senior high schools, two-year colleges, and teacher-education colleges. All persons interested in mathematics or the teaching of mathematics are eligible for membership.

Brochures describing services of the NCTM and listings of its current publications are available free on request from the Headquarters Office, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091 (703/620-9840).

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